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**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP
IN THE ECLAC METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS
THE MACROECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS
OF NATURAL DISASTERS**
Kingston, Jamaica, 23-25 April 2003

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In November 2001 ECLAC responded to a request from the Government of Jamaica to assist the country in undertaking a social, environmental and economic impact assessment following the losses the country sustained as a consequence of floods associated with hurricane Michelle. Following the preparation of the assessment “Jamaica: An Assessment of the Economic and other Damages Caused by Hurricane Michelle October 2001.

Following this assessment, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) requested ECLAC to conduct a training workshop in the use of the ECLAC Methodology to assess the macro-economic and Social Impacts of Natural Disasters. In collaboration with PIOJ the workshop was held from 23-25 April 2002.

The main objective of the workshop was to expose a wide range of key personnel trained in the use of the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology. Related objectives were to strengthen the capability of Jamaica to conduct their own assessment following a relatively minor disaster, and the creation of an effective counterpart team for those cases whereby, in the wake of a serious disaster, the international donor community requests that ECLAC would carry out an unbiased assessment.

Training materials included power point presentations and a training manual *Disaster Assessment Training manual for SIDS, Jamaica, 23-25 April 2002 LC/CAR/G.690*. A copy of the table of contents of the training manual is appended.

The training was conducted by ECLAC staff and included (in alphabetical order): Erik Blommestein, Lancelot Busby, Len Ishmael (Director), Asha Kambon and Esteban Pérez and two consultants Ivor Jackson and David Smith.

The training course was held at the Medallion Conference Centre and 43 participants attended from a wide range of disciplines. Those participants who attended at least two days were awarded a certificate.

In her opening address Dr. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, referred to the traumatic impacts that natural disasters can have on small societies. However, while a tremendous amount of the damages incurred in recent years have been coastal in nature, an increasing component has been the result of inland flooding as destabilized watersheds, mangrove destruction and increasing urbanization decrease the natural ability of the land to reduce rates of runoff, and carry fresh water safely out to sea. In the case of Jamaica, as we shall see a bit later, more people have died as a result of flooding than any other reason during a hurricane or tropical storm. Hurricane Gilbert, of course will remain in the memory of Jamaicans for some time to come. While the economic dislocation of this hurricane was attested by a drop in GDP growth from 7.7% to 2.9%, the sheer dislocation to people's lives

and resulting societal impacts are at least as important in every aspect. This fact of life - that these islands are located in a geographic reality which dictates the consistent onslaught of storms, compounds the other vulnerability "economic" - well known for its association with small island developing states. Economic vulnerability thus sits in an uncomfortable alliance with the twin spectre of social and ecological vulnerability - against which these countries have very little defence.

Important to the recovery process is the need for countries to understand the short medium and long-term impacts of natural disasters on macro economic performance, and the wellbeing of their populations. This is the centerpiece of the methodology to which you will be introduced over the next three days.

The training course then proceeded along the lines appended agenda.

Annex 1**Programme****Day 1 - Tuesday 23 April 2002**

- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome Remarks
 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Introduction of trainers and participants

Session I - Jamaica - Setting the stage

- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. i) Profile of Jamaica and its vulnerability
 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. ii) Video - Hurricane Gilbert
 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. iii) The coastal Zone: Summary of hazards and vulnerabilities
 10:15 -10:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*
 10:30 -11.15 a.m. iv) Land Use Planning and vulnerability assessment

Session II - The ECLAC Methodology

- 11:15 - 1:45 a.m. i) An introduction to the ECLAC Methodology
 ii) Key concepts and definitions
 11:45 - 12:00 p.m. iii) Introduction of the Case Study and assignment of working groups

Session III – Applying the Methodology

- 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. i) Affected Population: gender differentiation, loss of life, displaced population, homelessness, migration, employment effects, etc.
 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. *Lunch*
 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. ii) Infrastructure (transportation, essential services, communication)
 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. iii) Coastal areas and infrastructure
 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. *Coffee Break*
 iv) Economic Sectors:
 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. - Tourism
 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Agriculture & Fisheries

Day 2 - Wednesday 24 April 2002**Session III - Applying the Methodology (Cont'd)**

- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Trade and manufacturing sector
- 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. v) Social sectors
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. v) Social sectors *Cont'd*
- 11:15 - 12:30 p.m. vi) Environment (marine and terrestrial natural resources)
- 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. *Lunch*

Session IV - Pulling it all together - Summary of Effects

- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Overall effects of damages on the economy: Macro-socio-economic Impacts
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. *Coffee Break*

Session V - Vulnerability Reduction and Mitigation

- 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Planning for vulnerability reduction
- 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. Coastal engineering reconstruction, management and mitigation

Day 3 - Thursday 25 April 2002**Session VI - Pulling it all together - Operational Aspects**

- 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Social sector dynamics
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Institutional options for disaster management
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Information management and operational logistics

Section VII - Case Study

- 11:15 - 1:00 p.m. Working groups (Planning, natural resources, economic, infrastructure, social)
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Working Lunch*
- 2:00 - 3:45 p.m. Group presentations
- 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Wrap up session
- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Presentation of Diplomas

Annex 2**The following persons attended:**

Mr. Barrington Hibbert
Mr. Everton McFarlane
Ms. Beverly Reynolds
Mr. Neville Moodie
Ms. Angella Taylor Spence
Ms. Deborah Patrick
Ms. Elizabeth Baker-McPherson
Ms. Wendy McDaniel
Mr. Thomas Johnson
Ms. Jasmine Waite
Mr. Philbert Brown
Ms. Charmaine Selvyn
Mr. Rupert Johnson
Mr. Carlton Wedderburn
Ms. Carol Coy
Mr. Richard McHargh
Dr. Marion Bullock-Ducasse
Mr. Denton Edwards
Mr. Richard Mayne
Mr. Milton Buchanan
Dr. Karen Webster
Ms. Sybil Williams
Mr. Lennox Elvy
Mr. John Thorpe
Ms. Joe-Ella Mitchell
Mr. Omar Afflick
Mr. Ronald Jackson
Mr. Cecil Bailey
Mr. Richard Palmer
Ms. Maureen Dwyer
Mr. Lauriston Wilson
Mr. Easton Mendez
Mr. Marvet Brown
Ms. Anastasia Calnick
Mr. Locksley Fletcher
Mr. Chandar Henry
Mr. Krishna Desai
Major Denzil S. Walcott
Mr. Noel Recass
Mr. Hopeton Peterson
Mr. Eric Nathan
Mr. Patrick Fletcher
Mr. Courtney Lawes

Annex 3**Table of contents of the Training Manual****Section A - Jamaica - Setting the Stage**

- A.1 Profile of Jamaica and its vulnerability
- A.2 Video – Hurricane Gilbert
- A.3 The coastal zone – Summary of hazards and vulnerability
- A.4 Landuse planning and vulnerability assessment

Section B - The ECLAC Methodology

- B.1 An introduction to the ECLAC methodology
- B.2 Key concepts and definitions
- B.3 Case study

Section C - Applying the Methodology

- C.1 The affected population
- C.2 Infrastructure (Transportation, essential services, communication)
- C.3 Coastal areas and infrastructure
- C.4 Tourism
- C.5 Agriculture and fisheries
- C.6 The manufacturing and commercial sector
- C.7 The social sector
- C.8.a Terrestrial environments: Assessment of disaster impacts
- C.9.b Marine environments: Assessment of impacts

Section D - Pulling it all Together - Summary of Effects

- D.1 Overall effects of damages on the economy of the affected country

Section E - Vulnerability Reduction and Mitigation

- E.1 Planning for vulnerability reduction
- E.2 Coastal engineering: Reconstruction – Management and mitigation
- E.3 Social sector dynamics

Section F - Pulling it all Together - Operational Aspects

- F.1 Building capacity for vulnerability reduction – Institutional options for disaster management agencies
- F.2.a Information management
- F.2.b Operational logistics

Glossary